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Agenda Item: 2.C
Meeting Date: June 15, 2006

CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA AUTHORITY

April 13, 2006
650 Capitol Mall, Bay-Delta Room
Sacramento, California

MEETING SUMMARY

1. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS - INTRODUCTION / ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Acting Chairman Al Montna called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. No quorum was established.

Public – Paula Daniels, representing the Southern California Region; Alfred Montna, representing the Sacramento Valley Region; and Marc Holmes and Daniel Wheeler, Members-at-Large.

State –Crawford Tuttle, designee for Michael Chrisman, Secretary for Resources; Lester Snow, Director of the Department of Water Resources; Ryan Broddrick, Director of the Department of Fish and Game; Ken Trott, designee for A.G. Kawamura, Secretary for Food and Agriculture; and Rufus Howell, designee for Sandra Shewry, Director of the Department of Health Services.

Federal – Allan Oto, designee for Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; Michael Acetunio and Russ Strach for Rodney McInnis, Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Services; Karen Schwinn designee for Wayne Nastri, Administrator for the U.S. EPA's Pacific Southwest Region, Scott Clark, designee for Colonel Ronald Light, District Engineer, Sacramento District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

Ex-Officio – Alf Brandt for Assembly Member Lois Wolk, Chair of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee; and Dennis O'Connor for Senator Kuehl, Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee.

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Joe Grindstaff gave an update on the proposal to move the Authority staff to The Resources Agency and a report on the Environmental Justice Roundtable that occurred that morning at the California Environmental Protection Agency Building.

Virginia Cahill, Staff Counsel from the Attorney General standing in for Chris Stevens, the Authority's Chief Counsel, gave an update on the California Supreme Court Case involving CALFED.

3. LEAD SCIENTIST REPORT

Ron Ott, Deputy Director for Science, gave the Lead Scientist report which included an update on the Lead Scientist recruitment. The Lead Scientist recruitment initiated in the fall of 2005 was unsuccessful and has now been closed. Currently the Science Program is working with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to identify an interim candidate to serve after Johnnie Moore's term ends June 30, 2006. Also included was an update on a number of Review and Technical Panels including the Interagency Ecological Program's (IEP) Pelagic Organism Decline (POD) Investigations, the Operations Criteria and Plan (OCAP) Biological Opinion, CALSIM II, and the Delta Science Panel. Deputy Director Ott also gave an update on the San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science Journal and on the upcoming Science Program Focused Proposal Solicitation Package and Science Fellows solicitation. Deputy Director Ott also discussed the need to reform the Independent Science Board as proposed by the Lead Scientist.

4. 10-YEAR ACTION PLAN AND PREPARING FOR END OF STAGE 1

Director Grindstaff indicated that the Authority would continue through 2006 until legislation enacting CALFED governance takes effect, probably January 1, 2007; but in the meantime, the Authority staff would be moved to The Resources Agency and the Secretary of Resources would be designated the State Lead. There was considerable discussion about the structure, composition and authorities of the body that would replace the Authority. The Governor's plan would not propose a California Water Commission (CWC), instead periodic independent reviews every four to five years would be initiated to review the CALFED Program.

Director Grindstaff indicated this was one of the items discussed with Senator Dianne Feinstein. The other item included the formation of the Executive Leadership Council that would consist of State and Federal agencies and stakeholders.

The public members indicated disappointment that the CWC was omitted from the Governor's proposal because they felt the need for oversight should include some level of public participation. A periodic review every few years did not seem to accomplish the goal, while the Authority's December recommendation seemed to make more sense. The public members also requested that the Director present the Authority's report and the Governor's proposal and discuss the differences with the Legislature at the next Legislative hearing. The discussion also included the legislation necessary to implement these changes. The Legislative representatives indicated that the timeline for passing legislation to make the change would be tight and that the Legislature would like to see the governance proposal before the May Revision timeline.

The next discussion centered around the Delta Vision Process. Jerry Johns, Deputy Director of Water Resources, Planning and Management for DWR, gave an update on

the current thinking about trends, products, and schedules. The Legislative representative requested clarification on the funding of this process and was told that the process will be funded by voluntary contributions from some water users. There was also an update on the Delta Risk Management Study given by Ralph Svetich DRMS Program Manager, Department of Water Resources, and the USACE's Sacramento-San Joaquin Report to Congress by Scott Clark, Acting Chief of the Planning Division, Sacramento District. Cindy Darling, Regional Coordinator for the Bay Region of the California Bay-Delta Authority, gave an update on the Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP) process and answered questions regarding the user contribution process. Finally Deputy Director Johns gave an update on Long-Term Environmental Water Account (EWA) and the need to evaluate and possibly restructure the EWA.

The next discussion focused on the End of Stage 1 Decisions. Director Grindstaff indicated that there would be a number of decisions necessary for the End of Stage 1 and was looking for discussion on how the process on decision-making should be structured. Director Grindstaff gave an example of the Water Use Efficiency Water Conservation objectives for End of Stage 1. There was a discussion about the need to give incentives to conserve water and that the energy field does a good job giving out incentives to conserve energy. Director Grindstaff indicated that there were discussions with the California Energy Commission about using water conservation efforts in the energy incentive programs. Another example given was the decision about the South Delta Improvements Package and the decision to increase pumping to 8,500 cfs and the decision about continuing to convey water through the Delta. The public members were concerned about the need to have enough information to make the decisions about the End of Stage 1 and the need for a governance structure that the public can trust to make decisions. The need for a governance structure in place sooner rather than later was emphasized.

Finally, Linda Fiack, Executive Director of the Delta Protection Commission (DPC) gave an update on activities occurring at the DPC.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Montna adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.